

S-8: Xian Conducts Prokofiev & Strauss / Colton Conducting Fellow Audition

April 8-12, 2026

S-8 PROGRAM

XIAN ZHANG, conductor
FRANCESCA DEGO, violin

WEBERN *Im Sommerwind* (12')
PROKOFIEV Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor (26')
Intermission (20')
STRAUSS *Ein Heldenleben* (40')

Expected Run Times

(including talking & stage changes):
First Half – 40 minutes
Intermission – 20 minutes
Second Half – 40 minutes
Total – 1 hour 40 mins

COVID POLICY:

- COVID testing is no longer required
- Masks are optional & allowed on stage
- View the safety plan on the musician portal for more info

MUSIC:

Music can be found on the musician portal:
<https://www.njsymphony.org/musician-portal>
Password: xian2526

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Contact: Adria Benjamin 917-509-4276

Date	Venue	Parking	Time	Rehearsal Orders	Notes
Wednesday, April 8	Victoria Theater, NJPAC	Military Park Garage	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Strauss Webern	
			1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	See program on page 3	COLTON CONDUCTING FELLOWSHIP AUDITION
Thursday, April 9	Victoria Theater, NJPAC	Military Park Garage	10:00 am – 12:30 pm	Strauss Webern	Soloist/conductor meeting onstage between services.
			1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Prokofiev (with soloist)	
Friday, April 10	Prudential Hall, NJPAC	Military Park Garage	2:45 pm – 5:15 pm	Strauss Webern Prokofiev (with soloist)	

CONCERT SCHEDULE:

Contact: Adria Benjamin 917-509-4276

Date	Venue	Parking	Time	Dress*	Notes
Friday, April 10	Prudential Hall, NJPAC	Military Park Garage	7:30 pm	Black suit, black dress shirt, black tie Long formal concert black Formal black shoes	Classical conversation onstage 6:30-7pm. Symphony photographer taking photos.
Saturday, April 11	Count Basie Theatre, Red Bank	See directions	7:30 pm	See above.	
Sunday, April 12	Prudential Hall, NJPAC	Military Park Garage	2:00 pm	See above.	Classical conversation onstage 1-1:30pm.

INSTRUMENTATION

WEBERN - <i>Im Sommerwind</i>	12'	3 3[1,2,EH] 5[1,2,3,4,BC] 2 — 6 2 0 0 — timp+2-perc — 2-harp — str.
PROKOFIEV - Violin Concerto No. 2 in G Minor	26'	2 2 2 2 — 2 2 0 0 — 1-perc — str.
STRAUSS - <i>Ein Heldenleben</i>	40'	4[1,2,3,P] 4[1,2,3,4/EH] 4[1,2,BC,EC] 4[1,2,3,CB] — 8 5[1,2,3,PT1,PT2] 3 2[1,TENOR] — timp+4-perc — 2-harp — str.
		Total: 4 4 5 4 — 8 5 3 2 — T+4-perc — 2-harp String count: 16/14/12/10/7 at NJPAC 13/12/9/8/5 at Count Basie

DRIVING & PARKING

Count Basie Theatre

99 Monmouth Street, Red Bank 07701

Take the Garden State Parkway South Local to Exit 109 for Red Bank. After toll, turn left at the traffic light onto Newman Springs Road. Follow Newman Springs Road about one mile to Shrewsbury Avenue (Shell and Mobil at corner). Turn left onto Shrewsbury and travel approximately one mile to Monmouth Street and turn right. The theater is 3½ blocks ahead on the right. The backstage entrance is located to the right of the marquis through a doorway that leads down the side of the theater.

**Metered street parking is available on weekdays. Parking meters are not in effect on Saturdays. Additional parking is available at the train station, the Red Bank Corporate Plaza (paid) and Municipal Lot #1 off of Monmouth Street.*

BUS SCHEDULES

SATURDAY, MARCH 15 – RED BANK

BUS #1	BUS #2	BUS #3
Capt: Héctor Falcón (917) 449-8620	Capt: James Tsao (917) 282-9410	Capt: Bob Wagner (973) 941-8258
5:00 PM 96th & Amsterdam 5:25 PM 179th St. & Ft. Wash 5:35 PM Marriott (Teaneck) <i>(Return trip only: 125th & Broadway)</i> <i>(Return trip only: 106th & Broadway)</i>	5:35 PM 41st St between 9th Ave & Dyer 5:50 PM 2 Hauxhurst Ave, Weehawken <i>(Return trip only: 69th St & Amsterdam)</i> <i>(Return trip only: 79th St & Amsterdam)</i>	5:40 PM Essex Green 6:10 PM GS Parkway, Exit 135, Clark

NOTE: If the buses do not arrive within 15 minutes of the indicated times, please call; **Vanderhoof Bus Line at 973-325-0700**

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM IF YOU PLAN ON BRINGING BACKSTAGE GUESTS TO ANY CONCERT:
<https://fs10.formsite.com/NJSO/zwhq4sxl8/>
 This form can also be found on the musician portal.



COLTON CONDUCTING AUDITION PROGRAM:

RICARDO FERRO, conductor candidate 1

JHERRARD HARDEMAN, conductor candidate 2

EZRA CALVINO, conductor candidate 3

VIRGIL FOK, conductor candidate 4

BRENNAN SWEET, violin

DVOŘÁK Symphony No. 8

Movement 1, beginning to F

Conductors will play through, then rehearse as needed.

SIBELIUS Violin Concerto

Movement 1, beginning to beat 1 of bar 17 of rehearsal 3

Play through only, no rehearsal

DEBUSSY/arr. CAPLET: *Clair de Lune*

Beginning to letter C

Play through only, no rehearsal

Conductors will deliver a prepared one-minute speech to introduce the next work to an adult audience.

GERSHWIN/arr. BENNETT: Porgy & Bess Selection for Orchestra

Pickup to mm. 80 to mm. 136

Play through only, no rehearsal

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:

Contact: Adria Benjamin 917-509-4276

Date	Venue	Parking	Time	Notes
Wednesday, April 8	Victoria Theater, NJPAC	Military Park Garage	1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conductors will each have 20 minutes to complete the repertoire list, including rehearsing and the prepared speech. • There will be 5 minutes between each candidate for the orchestra to record their feedback on feedback sheets, which will be provided on stands. Feedback sheets should only be completed by contracted members of the orchestra. Feedback sheets will be collected at the end. Each candidate should be judged independently of the others. • The break will be taken following the feedback session for candidate #2.

INSTRUMENTATION

DVOŘÁK - Symphony No. 8 in G major	4.5'	2[1,2/P] 2[1,2/EH] 2 2 — 4 2 3 1 — timp — str.
SIBELIUS - Concerto in D minor for Violin and Orchestra	6'	2 2 2 2 — 4 2 3 0 — timp — str.
DEBUSSY - <i>Clair de Lune</i> Extrait de la <i>Suite Bergamasque</i>	1.5'	2 2 2 2 — 2 0 0 0 — harp — str.
GERSHWIN - <i>Porgy and Bess</i> Selection for Orchestra	2'	2[1,2/P] 2[1,2/EH] 3[1,2,BC] 2 — 4 3 3 1 — timp+2-perc — harp — str.
		Total: 2 2 3 2 — 4 3 3 1 — T+2-perc — harp String count: 12/10/9/8/6